

***This I believe in.. Cherishing your Family***

As Bishop Desmond Tutu puts it, “You don’t choose your family. They are God’s gift to you, just as you are to them.” To me, my family is above all. They are the ones whom I am most dear to, the ones I run to as my pillar of strength, and the ones who can truly comfort me when I experience rough times. I believe that my family are the people whom I can trust and rely on.

When I entered secondary school and officially became a teen, I was often irritated when my parents nagged at me for petty little things. Maybe it was due to the stress of adapting to a new school, but I almost always took it out on my family. It was only when my mother told me about what she went through as a child that I gained a life lesson.

My grandparents divorced when my mother was very young, probably about ten. My grandfather would come home after a game of mahjong, and would often scold or hit my grandmother, sometimes for no apparent reason. My mother and her siblings were helpless in defending my grandmother. My grandmother finally could not take it anymore and filed for divorce.

My mother told me that that period was a very, very, difficult time for her. She cried everyday in school. With a separated family, my mother felt very miserable at that time. That struck me immediately. I had never wondered how it felt like to come home from school one day to face an empty and desolate house. I began to wonder what it was like to live without my family around. There would be no more family outings, no more eating of dinner together, nor watching television together. I realised that I took for granted the warm presence I felt each time my family was around.

From then on, I was determined to cherish each of my family members while they are still around. We spend quality family time together on Sundays playing games and cracking jokes with one another. With my family around, I know that I can just be myself and share anything I want. Even when I get into quarrels with friends in school, I always feel comforted by the fact that my family is there for me, to give me a listening ear. I know that they would stand by me, no matter what dire circumstances I may be in.

Each family member brings joy to my life in various ways. Although each member in the family is unique, we are bonded together. We are bonded not just by blood relations, but by an unspeakable bond that forms from mutual trust, love, and understanding for one another. I have learned to cherish my family more and more each day, simply by giving a cheerful smile whenever I’m around them, and showing little acts of thoughtfulness that comes from the heart. God gave us this gift of family, so cherish it: this I believe.